

**Kim DelNigro**

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**From:** Paul Matthews [paul@arc-of-innovation.org]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 25, 2006 1:24 PM  
**To:** Planning Department  
**Subject:** ARC ALERT: Veto of Partnership's Funding Overridden



**495/METROWEST CORRIDOR PARTNERSHIP**  
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## LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION SECURES VETO OVERRIDE RESTORING PARTNERSHIP'S STATE FUNDING

DUE TO THE LEADERSHIP AND ADVOCACY OF OUR LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION AND THE OVERWHELMING SUPPORT SHOWN BY THE 495/METROWEST REGION, OUR LEGISLATORS WERE ABLE TO SECURE VETO OVERRIDES BY BOTH THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND STATE SENATE TO RESTORE THE 495/METROWEST CORRIDOR PARTNERSHIP'S \$250,000 APPROPRIATION.

THE FUNDING AUTHORIZATION ON BEHALF OF THE PARTNERSHIP WAS ENDORSED BY BOTH THE FULL HOUSE AND SENATE AS PART OF THEIR DELIBERATIONS ON THE FISCAL YEAR 2007 STATE BUDGET, AND WAS INCLUDED IN THE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT THAT WAS ENACTED AND SENT TO THE GOVERNOR FOR HIS CONSIDERATION. DESPITE THE PARTNERSHIP'S STRONG RECORD OF ACCOMPLISHMENT; HISTORY OF PUBLIC-PRIVATE FUNDING; ENDORSEMENT BY BOTH REPUBLICAN AND DEMOCRATIC MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION; AND STRONG SUPPORT BY REGIONAL LEADERS, GOVERNOR ROMNEY VETOED THE APPROPRIATION WHEN HE SIGNED THE STATE BUDGET INTO STATUTE.

IN ORDER TO RESTORE THIS FUNDING AUTHORIZATION FOR THE PARTNERSHIP, AN OVERRIDE VOTE FOR THIS PARTICULAR VETO HAD TO BE CONDUCTED IN EACH LEGISLATIVE BRANCH, WITH A TWO-THIRDS MARGIN REQUIRED FOR PASSAGE. TO DO SO, THE LEGISLATION DELEGATION WORKED TOGETHER TO SHOW THE DEPTH OF SUPPORT FOR THE PARTNERSHIP BY SENDING JOINT LETTERS TO THE HOUSE SPEAKER, SENATE PRESIDENT, WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE CHAIRS, AND MAJORITY LEADERS URGING AN OVERRIDE OF GOVERNOR ROMNEY'S VETO.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, THESE LETTERS POINTED OUT THAT "THIS EARMARK IS CRUCIAL TO THE PARTNERSHIP'S CONTINUED WORK ON BEHALF OF THIRTY-TWO COMMUNITIES, OVER HALF A MILLION RESIDENTS, AND TWENTY NINE LEGISLATORS IN THE 495/METROWEST REGION," AND WERE COORDINATED BY STATE REPRESENTATIVE STEPHEN LEDUC. IN THE SENATE, THIS EFFORT ARGUED THAT THE OVERRIDE WAS NECESSARY "TO DEMONSTRATE TO THE GOVERNOR OUR SUPPORT FOR THE CONTINUED GROWTH AND WELL BEING OF THE METROWEST REGION, A REGION CRUCIAL TO THE STATE'S ECONOMY," AND WAS LED BY STATE SENATOR PAMELA RESOR. THIRTEEN OTHER LEGISLATORS SIGNED THESE LETTERS, AND MADE THE PARTNERSHIP FUNDING AUTHORIZATION ONE OF THEIR TOP PRIORITIES DURING THE LEGISLATURE'S CONSIDERATION OF POTENTIAL VETO OVERRIDES.

THROUGHOUT THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS OF DEVELOPING A STATE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2007, MANY OF THE STATE LEGISLATORS REPRESENTING THE 495/METROWEST REGION ENDORSED THE PARTNERSHIP'S REQUEST FOR STATE FUNDING AND WORKED TIRELESSLY TO SECURE THE NEEDED AUTHORIZATION. THESE LEGISLATORS INCLUDED STATE REPRESENTATIVES CORY ATKINS, DEBORAH BLUMER, JAMES ELDRIDGE, GEOFFREY HALL, STEPHEN LEDUC, DAVID LINSKY, PAUL LOSCOCO, MARIE PARENTE, ALICE PEISCH, GEORGE PETERSON, KARYN POLITO, SUSAN POPE, THOMAS SANNICANDRO, AND JAMES VALLEE; AND STATE SENATORS EDWARD AUGUSTUS, SCOTT BROWN, HARRIETTE CHANDLER, RICHARD MOORE, PAMELA RESOR, AND KAREN SPILKA.

AS A RESULT OF THIS LEADERSHIP FROM THE LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION, AS WELL AS MANY SHOWS OF SUPPORT FROM MUNICIPAL OFFICIALS,

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BUSINESS EXECUTIVES, AND OTHER REGIONAL LEADERS FROM THE ARC OF INNOVATION, BOTH THE HOUSE AND SENATE HAVE VOTED TO OVERRIDE THE VETO OF LINE ITEM 7003-0702 AND RESTORE \$250,000 IN FUNDING TO THE PARTNERSHIP DURING FISCAL YEAR 2007.

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE - LEGISLATORS, MUNICIPAL OFFICIALS, EMPLOYERS, ENVIRONMENTALISTS, AND OTHER REGIONAL LEADERS - WHO TOOK THE TIME AND TROUBLE TO LEND THEIR VOICES TO THIS OVERWHELMING ADVOCACY EFFORT. THIS VICTORY SHOWS THE STRENGTH OF OUR LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION, THE PARTNERSHIP'S APPROACH OF PUBLIC-PRIVATE COLLABORATION, AND THE ARC OF INNOVATION REGION.